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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Rumored Tank Assembly Plant Near Janska

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "A military plant is rumored under construction near the village of Janska (Jonschach), northeast of Bacin in northern Bohemia. This report is dated spring 1953.
2. "Prior to World War II four small artificial silk mills were in operation near Janska. The German military authorities took them over during the war for the production of spare parts for airplanes. Tunnels were driven into the hill (70 meters high) by the mills and an underground plant was built. It is said that the tunnels stretch at least 1,000 meters. Several hundred forced laborers worked in the plant. A barracks camp was built for them in the neighborhood. The laborers had been brought from the Rabenstein Concentration Camp.
3. "After World War II the entire complex was taken over by the Czech Authorities. The machines were dismantled. Production of finished concrete products began in one of the former silk mills. The other buildings were used as corn silos. Potatoes and vegetables were stored in the underground installations.
4. "In May 1952 a military commission arrived from Prague. It ordered all the corn and vegetables removed from the complex within three months. Eighteen military trucks brought more than 100 soldiers to work on this project. The whole area was surrounded with a double wire fence. It is rumored that the inner fence is electrified. Searchlights have been installed. Patrols are on 24-hour duty between the two wire fences.

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5. "Reconstruction of the railroad siding at this point started in early 1953. The tracks had been dismantled in 1943.
6. "The local rumor is that tanks will be assembled in the factory buildings. Machines have been installed. It is estimated that by summer 1953 production will start with some 900 workers. The German barracks-camp has been rebuilt. Some compulsory laborers are already living in one of the buildings which formerly belonged to the silk mills."

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